Correspondence.

PREVENTION OF DAMPNESS.

SIR,—In the spring of 1844 I built my house, and in the office, in an 18-inch rough stone wall, had a large iron safe fixed, which has a well in it 18 inches deep, the lower part of which is below the level of the floor of the room. It was remarkably fine during the progress of the whole building, and great part of the stones used were old ones, yet, although it is now fifteen months since, if I close the doors for a week, my books begin to mould; and I have never been able to keep any thing in the well, which is covered with rust. Could you oblige me by informing me how I can remedy this serious inconvenience without removing it, as its front reaches from the bottom to nearly the top of the room, and is, moreover, set in large Portland stones, which run a considerable distance into the wall, and could not be removed without great trouble and expense? I thought it possible some means might be suggested, and if you can assist me, you will confer a favour on your obedient servant,

July 10, 1845. A SUBSCRIBER.

*** We have, at different times, received several communications on this same subject, but without an acquaintance with the *locus in quo* find it difficult to suggest a remedy. We shall be happy to hear the opinion of correspondents. As an expedient a lining of slate, kept at a short distance from the sides, bottom, and top, of the safe might be resorted to.

SCAFFOLDING.

MR. EDITOR,—There are some houses building at Kensington Gore which have a contrivance worthy of being imitated by builders, where space will admit of its being used: it is a series of inclined planes, to enable the labourers to reach with more ease to themselves the different stories of the building with bricks and mortar. A labourer told me that he was more fatigued going up one day by the ladder than he was three on the inclined plane. I am, Sir, yours obediently,

A SUBSCRIBER TO YOUR VALUABLE JOURNAL.

Miscellanea.

COLLEGE FOR CIVIL ENGINEERS, PUTNEY.—The annual distribution of prizes was made here on Tuesday last. The Hon. R. E. Howard took the chair, but ultimately resigned it to the Earl of Devon. The Rev. Morgan Cowie, principal of the college, in his report on the general conduct of the students, said;—An engineer's business was, above all others, most various and extended in its operations and effects from one side of the earth to the other. He, therefore, considered that the best way of qualifying the students was to give them a sound theoretical education, the groundwork of which was mathematics and chemistry. The pupils were taught by models, and many of them made models themselves requiring great skill and experience in their execution. They were also occupied in levelling and surveying, accompanied by an experienced person in these branches, who could point out to them and explain whatever difficulty might arise; in fact, they did exactly what they would have to do if they were in an engineer's office. The education that was given by the college might be classed under five principal heads, namely— mathematics, chemistry, geology, the art of construction, and knowledge of principles, and the practice of machinery; to which might be added, the study of French, German, and every other branch of learning necessary to complete the education of a gentleman and an engineer. In all these departments Mr. Cowie could say with much pleasure that the progress of the students had been in general very satisfactory.

THE NEW PALACE AT OSBORNE.—The works are proceeding rapidly under the special supervision of the Queen and Prince Albert. The new wing will be about 70 feet square, and similar in character to the eastern front of Osborne House. Her Majesty and suite unexpectedly attended divine service at Whippingham church during their last visit.

CITY IMPROVEMENTS.—At a Court of Common Council recently held, Mr. R. L. Jones brought up the report of the London-bridge Approaches Committee, to whom it was referred to examine the allegations in the petition of the inhabitants of the north side of the ward of Farringdon-without, for the completion of the improvements at Farringdon New-street and Holborn-bridge, with instructions to report their opinion upon the expediency of carrying out those proposed improvements. It stated that the committee had viewed the new line of street, and the projecting houses on the north side of Holborn-bridge, and directed the clerk of the works to report his opinion as to the estimated value of those houses, and also to report the probable amount of the cost of the improvement, deducting the value of the surplus ground; that they had subsequently received reports from the clerk of the works, from which it appeared that, exclusive of law charges, the probable cost of completing the line of improvement at Holborn-bridge, after deducting the value of the surplus ground, would amount to 14,500*l.* That the committee having duly considered all the circumstances, were of opinion that it was desirable for the City to complete the line of improvement at Holborn-bridge, by purchasing and setting back the said houses, provided suitable means and powers could be obtained for that purpose; and they were further of opinion that an opportunity would at the same time be afforded for effecting an additional improvement of Holborn-hill. The committee, therefore, felt it their duty to draw the particular attention of the court to the propriety of taking measures to carry out these objects, and they recommended the same accordingly. That they had caused the vaults to be constructed on both sides of Farringdon-street, and had already let eleven of the lots of ground in that street on building leases, and were taking measures which they trusted would ensure future lettings, so that the whole of the improvement, so far as the City was concerned, might be completed without delay, and that they were the more strengthened in that opinion in consequence of the measures in progress for carrying on the new line of street in the county of Middlesex.

REDUCTION IN THE PRICE OF GAS.—The Chelmsford Gas Company have resolved to reduce from Michaelmas next to those who burn with meter the price of gas from 10s. per 1,000 feet (the sum hitherto paid) to 8s. 4d. They have also determined to allow 10 per cent. to those whose consumption in the year is 40,000 feet and upwards, thus in effect lowering the price to 7s. 6d. per 1,000 feet. The Barnsley Gas Company have agreed to reduce the price of gas from 9s. to 7s. 6d. per thousand cubic feet from the 1st instant. The Birmingham Old Gas Company have given notice, that from the present time the price of gas to consumers under 5,000 cubic feet per quarter, will be 6s. 8d. per 1,000; to those consuming upwards of 25,000 cubic feet per quarter, 5s. 8d., and to consumers above that quantity 4s. 6d. per thousand cubic feet.

NEW SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES IN SOUTHWARK.—In consequence of the great want of schools and church accommodation in Southwark and the adjoining parishes of Bermondsey, Lambeth, and Newington, a committee has been formed for the purpose of raising funds by subscription to be applied towards the erection and endowing of several additional schools and churches in those districts. Her Majesty has contributed 200*l.*, and Prince Albert 100*l.* The Archbishop of Canterbury gives 1,000*l.*, and the same amount is subscribed by the wealthy brewers, Messrs. Barclay, Perkins, and Co. The contributions already amount to upwards of 11,000*l.*

THE QUEEN'S PAVILION, BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS.—The decorations of the pavilion are now completed: pressure of matter prevents us from noticing them this week, but we shall do so in our next number, and shall then be able, we trust, to remove one or two misconceptions which at present possess the public mind.

THE HOME MINISTER'S ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH:—A metallic wire, for establishing a communication between the electric telegraph of the Rouen Railroad and the ministry of the interior, has been carried along the watercourses and under the Pont de la Concorde to the minister's office.—*Morning paper.*

Tenders.

TENDERS delivered for the erection of Two Warehouses in Montague-close, London-bridge, for Alderman Humphery; Mr. J. Griffith, Architect.

Harrison	£19,500
Nicholson	19,500
Cubitt	19,400
Lee	19,340
Lawrence	19,280
Ryder	19,100
Jay	18,081
Jackson	17,999
Little	17,896
Grimsdell	16,782

Opened in the presence of the parties.

Tenders for the erection of Dwelling-house and Farm-buildings for F. Tucker, Esq., at Bourton, near Shrivenham, Berks. July 3rd, 1845. At the office of the Architect, Mr. W. F. Ordish, John-street, Adelphi.

Gerry, London	£8,210
Willson	7,782
Burchell, Swindon	7,710
Rose and Terrant	7,400
Kirk, Sleaford, Lincoln	6,650

Tenders delivered for Twenty-four Houses, Lillington-street, Vauxhall-bridge-road, to Henry Coe Coape, Esq., and Capel Coape, Esq., under Mr. Henry S. Ridley, surveyor.

Haward and Nixon	£11,692
Rippon	11,086
Burstall and Son	10,735
Burtonshaw	10,696
Lacey	10,683
Patterton	10,649
Glenn	10,491
Winsland	10,447
Bennett	10,325
Pink	10,296

Tenders for Four Houses in Charlwood-street, adjoining.

Haward and Nixon	£2,992
Burstall and Son	2,794
Rippon	2,757
Patterton	2,755
Burtonshaw	2,600
Glenn	2,598
Bennett	2,576
Winsland	2,550
Pink	2,539
Lacey	2,270

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled by the interference of the Stamp Office to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c., are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers, however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the office of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent-garden.]

For the Construction of Four divisions of the Chester and Holyhead Railway, comprising the entire line through the County of Anglesey.

For Building Sewers in the Old Bailey, Hanging Sword-alley, and Crown-court; also in John-street, Crutchedfriars, and Cullum-street, all being within the City of London.

For Lighting the town of Woodbridge in Suffolk with Gas.

For Building Sewers from Bloomsbury-street, Holborn, along Charlotte-street, the east side of Bedford-square, and Gower-street, with a branch Sewer along Store-street, the length being about 3573 feet with 1480 feet of gully street and 2320 feet of private drains.

For supplying her Majesty's several Dockyards with stone-ground Glass in panes, crown glass and green glass in tables, and window Lead, and glass illuminators and tubes.

For certain alterations of the premises (formerly the Post-Office), in Crown-street, Bury St. Edmunds, and for a New Building.

For supplying her Majesty's several Dockyards with Canada Red and Yellow Pine Timber, Rock Elm Timbers, Spruce Deals, and Ash Oar Rafters.

APPROACHING SALES OF WOOD, &c.

BY AUCTION.

At the Harvey Arms, Finningly, near Bawtry: upwards of 150 tons of well-hearted Oak Timber in lots of from one to two tons each. Also a quantity of Cord Wood.

At Dockhead, Bermondsey: 200 12 feet 3 inches, 11 inches, and 10 inches Spruce plank; 250 14 feet 3 inch Yellow Findland Deals; 700 15 feet to 6 feet 3 inches and 9 inches Gefle deals; 680 12 feet to 6 feet 3 inches Spruce deals; 100 21 feet to 18 feet Norway Battens; 250 12 feet Spruce and Fine Battens.

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